



Bible Study Questions

21st September 2025 – When God is silent

Psalm 88

Discussion Starter

What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something—like a parcel, a response, or an answer—and how did it make you feel?

What's something you hoped for as a child but never got (a toy, a pet, an experience)?

Read Psalm 88

What stands out to you, or what do you notice?

What questions are raised for you?

What challenges you?

Questions

- When you hear the phrase 'unanswered prayer,' what's the first word or feeling that comes to mind?
- How does the experience of the Psalmist in Psalm 88 compare with your own experience of prayer?
- The psalmist cries out day and night (vv. 1–2) but hears nothing in return. Why do you think God sometimes seems silent to our prayers?
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, how does Paul's experience help us understand the way that God answers prayers?
- Why do you think that it is important that the Bible includes a psalm that ends with "darkness is my closest friend" (v. 18)?
- How does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane ("take this cup from me" Luke 22:41-43) reflect the same kind of anguish we see in Psalm 88? How did God answer Jesus' prayer?
- Psalm 88 ends in darkness, but the gospel story does not. How does the resurrection of Jesus show us that God's ultimate answer is not silence, but life, hope, and His presence?

Application

- What do you think God may be forming in us through times of unanswered prayer?
- How can we as a church family walk alongside someone who feels abandoned by God without rushing to fix or explain their pain?
- What helps you keep trusting God when your prayers aren't answered in the way you hoped?
- What would it look like for you to pray more honestly, like the psalmist, this week?